

House File 2546 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2546
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2124)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying the duties of the department of education
2 related to electronic systems.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 11, Code 2026, is
2 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu
3 thereof the following:

4 11. a. Approve, coordinate, and supervise the use of
5 electronic data and information processing by school districts,
6 area education agencies, and merged areas, including the
7 procurement of a comprehensive, statewide data collection
8 system that must facilitate data collection between the
9 student information systems of all school districts, accredited
10 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies. The director
11 shall procure the comprehensive, statewide data collection
12 system using a process that requires the issuance of requests
13 for proposal.

14 b. The data collection system described in paragraph "a"
15 must satisfy all of the following requirements:

16 (1) Be designed for the purpose of establishing
17 standardized electronic data collections and reporting
18 protocols that facilitate compliance with state and federal
19 reporting requirements.

20 (2) Maintain the confidentiality of student and staff data.

21 (3) Provide for, and improve the process of, the electronic
22 transfer of individual student records between attendance
23 centers, school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, area
24 education agencies, postsecondary institutions, merged areas,
25 and the department.

26 (4) (a) Be designed to ensure compatibility with any
27 student information system utilized by school districts,
28 accredited nonpublic schools, or area education agencies.

29 (b) The department and the developer of the data collection
30 system software must allow a school district, accredited
31 nonpublic school, or area education agency to purchase a
32 student information system from the developer of the school
33 district's, accredited nonpublic school's, or area education
34 agency's choice that maintains a shared database architecture
35 with the data collection system; provided, however, that use of

1 the data collection system shall not require or depend upon the
2 purchase of any specific student information system.

3 (5) Validate data for accuracy prior to a school district,
4 accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency
5 submitting the data to the department.

6 (6) Allow the department, school districts, accredited
7 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies to communicate
8 regarding state reporting within the data collection system.

9 (7) Be hosted by the developer of the software to reduce
10 the burden on the department, school districts, accredited
11 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies associated with
12 maintaining the data collection system.

13 (8) Support the collection and validation of information
14 required to be maintained under federal and state law,
15 including all of the following:

16 (a) School and classroom attendance records.

17 (b) Student enrollment counts and related demographic
18 information.

19 (c) Participation data for federally funded and state
20 funded educational programs.

21 (d) Student and employee demographic information.

22 (e) Student assessment scores for state-required
23 assessments.

24 (f) Special education records and individualized education
25 program information, as required under the federal Individuals
26 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.

27 (g) English learner identification, program participation,
28 and progress monitoring data. For purposes of this
29 subparagraph division, "*English learner*" means the same as
30 defined in section 280.4.

31 (h) Student discipline records and incident reports.

32 (i) Dropout verification and graduation confirmation data.

33 (j) School and district academic calendar information.

34 (9) Collects and distributes only the data required under
35 state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to enroll

1 and serve new students from another school or educational
2 institution.

3 (10) Ensure that the data maintained in the data collection
4 system is the property of the school district, accredited
5 nonpublic school, or area education agency, as applicable, and
6 is not the property of the department.

7 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — MODERNIZATION OF
8 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

9 1. The department of education shall modernize the
10 department's electronic systems and procedures in order to
11 ensure all of the following:

12 a. The proper disbursement of moneys in a timely manner by
13 increasing the ease and frequency of reporting submissions and
14 collections throughout the school year.

15 b. That the department's systems are able to communicate
16 with other state agencies, and with school districts,
17 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation
18 zone schools, to better identify needs for students.

19 2. The modernization described in subsection 1 must include
20 the deployment of a portal, on or before July 1, 2027, which
21 satisfies all of the following requirements:

22 a. Allows school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
23 charter schools, and innovation zone schools to do all of the
24 following:

25 (1) Validate the prior submission of data to the department.

26 (2) Perform a cross-district enrollment check prior to the
27 submission of information.

28 (3) Embed the communication tools between the department
29 and other school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
30 charter schools, and innovation zone schools.

31 b. Provides school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
32 charter schools, and innovation zone schools with access to a
33 data dictionary that updates automatically.

34 c. Includes a calendar with key dates.

35 d. Is hosted by the developer of the software to reduce

1 the burden on the department associated with maintaining the
2 portal.

3 e. Collects and distributes only the data required under
4 state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to enroll
5 and serve new students from another school or educational
6 institution.

7 f. Ensures that the information maintained in the portal
8 is the property of the school district, accredited nonpublic
9 school, charter school, or innovation zone school that
10 submitted the information and is not the property of the
11 department of education.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill modifies the duties of the department of education
16 (DE) related to electronic systems.

17 The bill requires the director of DE to approve, coordinate,
18 and supervise the use of electronic data and information
19 processing by school districts, area education agencies, and
20 merged areas, including the procurement of a comprehensive,
21 statewide data collection system that must facilitate data
22 collection between the student information systems of all
23 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area
24 education agencies. The director of the department of
25 education is required to procure the comprehensive, statewide
26 data collection system using a process that requires the
27 issuance of requests for proposal. The bill establishes
28 requirements that the data collection system must satisfy.

29 The bill requires that DE modernize its electronic systems
30 and procedures in order to ensure the proper disbursement of
31 moneys in a timely manner and to ensure that DE's systems are
32 able to communicate with other state agencies, and with school
33 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools,
34 and innovation zone schools. The modernization must include
35 the deployment of a portal, on or before July 1, 2027, which

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1 satisfies requirements established in the bill.